To

Brethren,

We have received your letter relating to Slavery, a subject of deep & fearful interest to us all. In our political relations, it is threatening to upheave the very foundations of our government, while it draws its dark line through the land & painfully divides the members of a great & otherwise united people, on a point touching the dearest interests of man. In its moral & religious bearings we dare not look upon it without feeling sick at heart. It is a curse pressing every year more heavily upon society, & as we believe in the righteous retributions of heaven, so we verily believe that unless we do all that we can to purge it away, it must bring upon us the sorest calamities that in the righteous retributions of Heaven can fall upon a nation. So far there is no difference of feeling or opinion among us. We all believe that there is something for us to do. But how shall we act? Slavery, in its more extended influences & relations is so woven into our whole social organization that the question is one not only of solemn interest, but of ~~the utmost delicacy~~ great difficulty, requiring of us the most earnest & prayerful thought. And as we must answer to a higher tribunal than that of man, so must we be faithful, each to his own convictions. As it respects any direct political action for the abolition of Slavery ~~except~~ in the District of Columbia & the Territories ~~which is but ten miles square,~~ not yet admitted as Independent States, it may not be known to you that the citizens of the free states have no more right to interfere than the citizens of Great Britain. As a political body each separate state has the entire control of this matter within itself, & is exceedingly jealous of any interference from without. In addition therefore to what we can do for a correct public sentiment in the free states, our only appeal is to the consciences & hearts of our brethren whose misfortune it has been to inherit, by whose guilt it must be, if without strong & earnest struggles, they consent to uphold, an institution which pours the dreadful

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wrong it inflicts on master & slave, must be unblessed of God & a curse to man. We ask for ourselves & we ask for them, the counsel & the sympathy of all Christian men; & we trust that the wise & holy efforts of all will second our efforts & our prayers that ~~this dark~~ Slavery may no longer stain our national character & threaten ~~the ruin~~ of our Republic. ~~It will soon wear out for this would be the most glorious~~ ~~Republic that the sun has looked down upon~~ Our faith is strong, & while we see ~~much~~ cause for penitence & sorrowful foreboding, we have also a bright assurance that if we are true, He who maketh the wrath of man to praise Him, will in this our good time, point out to us a way of deliverance.

With sincere regard

Your brethren in the faith & hopes

of the Gospel of Christ.

Rev. S. K. Lothrop.

Salem April 7. 1844

My dear Sir,

On Thursday Mr. Peabody told me that his health had been such that he had not been able to write the letter, & that as he expected to sail from Boston for the South early this week he wished I would write. I send you the result. Will you be so good as to show it to Ellis & if you see him to Peabody. I will forward a copy to Mr. May to suggest to him a meeting of the Committee at your room next Thursday morning at 10 o'clock. Should this not be convenient or agreeable to you, will you let him know & excuse me the liberty which I take solely on account of want of time. Any suggestions as to the letter I shall be glad to hear.

In haste

Yours very truly

S. A. Morrison.

I do not know how direct the letter.

On second thoughts I enclose to you my letter to Mr. May that you may alter it if you see fit.

Rev. Samuel K. Lothrop

Boston

Mass.

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